8:Campbell T-5 (no date) 1949 MH1 Iraq MH1

Shia tribes sent less and less of their men to rally to the Muntafiq standard, and the tribal cavalry consisted of paid retainers of the ruling house. There were, it is true, occasional differences between the Saaduns and the Turks, as when the powerful Saadun Pasha was at loggerheads with the Wali of Basra.

The Confederation is a thing of the past, and its Shia tribesmen now owe loyalty only to their own tribal sheikhs, and above them to the Government of Iraq. It is touching to find in some remote reed hut carefully tended pictures of King Feisal and of His Royal Highness the Regent. The tribes had their greatest glory in the days when the country was under foreign domination, when they were the rallying-points of the resistance which prevented the absorption of Iraq into either Turkey or Persia. In a democratic state the position of the tribes is less clear. There is much that is fine in tribal life and worth preserving at all costs, and a tribal loyalty need not necessarily interfere with modern progress. For example, numbers of tribesmen from all over Iraq now live in the capital, working in various jobs, as artisans and labourers, lawyers, doctors and engineers. In this growing State a boy may be born in a tribal reed hut, and if intelligent finish up as a doctor in Baghdad. All these emigrants from the tribes maintain close contact with their tribes, usually by way of entertaining tribesmen on their visits to the city. When a sheikh makes a levy, for some purpose, of a dirhem from the head of every family in his tribe, the emigrants are the first to send in their money: though they may be wealthy doctors driving American saloon cars, they send in the exact dirhem along with the labourers and artisans. To send more would savour of ostentation.

Life in the tribes is changing year by year. The pumping

44:Matthews and Akrawi S, G-3 (1945-1946)1949 MI Middle East
IRAQ MHI

Of 1,011 graduates of secondary schools in 1942–43, only 470, or 46.5 percent, entered higher institutions in Iraq or went abroad to study. Admission to the colleges is based primarily upon scholastic standing and proportional representation of each province.

With the exception of the Law College,[2] instruction in the colleges is free, the student signing a contract to serve the government after graduation for a specified number of years. The Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Law have no boarding arrangements, but all other colleges maintain boarding departments at government expense. Other government aid for students studying at its expense includes books, medical care, travel, and in some cases clothing.

The Iraqi public-school system is essentially democratic in character, affording a large measure of equality of opportunity to students. It is largely a free system, fees charged in secondary schools being small and provision being made for a large percentage of exemptions for the poor student of little better than average standing.[3] Even higher education is almost entirely free, the Law College being the only important exception —and there the bright poor student is exempted from payment of fees. Moreover, the government has taken up the heavy burden of providing vocational and professional education entirely at its own expense.

Recently the Ministry of Education has taken steps to extend post-primary educational opportunities for village boys. Formerly the only courses available to poor village boys were in the rural-teachers colleges or the technical schools in Baghdad or Mosul. If a village boy wanted to proceed to the intermediate and secondary schools in the capitals of the provinces, he had to have means to support himself—and few did. In September 1945 the Ministry of Education adopted the policy of opening a boarding department in the capital of each province where 10 bright village boys can be taken annually at government expense and so allowed to pursue their secondary education. In addition, some of the brightest primary-school graduates are admitted annually from each province to King Faysal College for boys where they receive their secondary-school education in English at government expense. Some of the brighter girls from each province are admitted after graduation from the intermediate schools into the secondary section of the Queen 'Aliyah Institute at government expense.

[2] A College of Commerce was founded in 1946-47 and charges fees at the same rate as the College of Law—15 dinars ($60.00) per annum.

[3] Secondary-school fees were abolished entirely in 1946.